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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/472,512 10/01/99 ARMIPOLI

1988-0698

EXAMINER

PM91/0314

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NEW YORK NY 10164

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/473,012

Applicant(s)

Armstrong et al

Examiner

Nguyen, Tran

Group Art Unit
2834



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 24, 2001

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the applicant

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17 2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 3

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 2834

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. **Claims 1-14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, the recitation "the strip being produced from a material which is less hard than the magnet" is indefinite because the clause "a material is less hard than the magnet" does not clearly cite any metes and bound for the limitations. In other words, with the recitation, one skilled in the art would not ably to figure out what kind of material, i.e., nonmetallic or metallic material, if it is metallic should it be magnetic or nonmagnetic material that has certain characteristics which make the material less hard than the magnet. Thus, with this recitation, one skilled in the art would not ably to figure out or determine whether there is a patentable infringement or not. *According to MPEP section 2171*, two Separate Requirements for Claims Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph:

(1) the claims must set forth the subject matter that applicants regard as their invention; and

Art Unit: 2834

(2) the claims must particularly point out and distinctly define the metes and bounds of the subject matter that will be protected by the patent grant. (Emphasis added).

In claims 12 and 27, the recitation "at least two of the magnets being associated with respective strips" (strips in plural form) is indefinite because the independent claim recites "a strip" (singular form). Also it is unclear that at least two magnets associated with one strip or two strips? Should it be the second case then should each strip being disposed on opposed faces of the magnet?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-4, 12-19 and 27-29** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over XP-000726444 (hereafter XP'444), in view of Ragaly, EP 0837-538-A.

XP'444 discloses an alternator (as shown in figs. 1-2) comprising: two claw-pole pieces (30, 32) interlacing, the claw pole having a groove (30C, 32C), wherein the claw pole's groove accommodating at least one magnet (54). XP'444 however does not disclose a strip interposed between one face of the magnet and the groove, wherein the strip covers over the magnet's circumferential face that is oriented in a direction opposite to the alternator's shaft.

Art Unit: 2834

Ragaly disclose an alternator having a plurality magnet embedded into the pole piece of the rotor, wherein the claw pole's groove (25) accommodating at least one magnet, and a strip (35) interposed between one face of the magnet and the groove, wherein the strip covers over the magnet's circumferential face that is oriented in a direction opposite to the alternator's shaft.

Thus, it would have been an obvious matter of engineering design choice at the time the invention was made to modify the XP'444 alternator by providing a strip to interposed between one face of the magnet and the groove, as taught by Ragaly, because this would provide a means to firmly restrain the magnets in position against the centrifugal force.

Regarding the material of the strip, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select glass fiber embedded in pre-impregnated plastic since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

5. **Claims 5-8 and 20-23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over XP'444 and Ragaly, as rejected in the rejection against the base claims, and in view of level of ordinary skill of a worker in the art.

The combination of the XP'444 and Ragaly refs discloses the claimed invention, except for the added limitations of two strips interposed opposite surfaces of the magnet, as recited in claim 5, or the groove has an U-shaped profile, as recited in claim 6, or a V-shaped profile, as recited in claims 7-8.

Art Unit: 2834

Regarding the two strips interposed opposite surfaces of the magnet, the prior art combination does disclose a strip covering the magnet for magnet protection and prevent the magnet from being displaced due to the centrifugal force. Those skilled in the art would realize that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to apply this teaching and further provide another strip for the opposite surface of the magnet because this is merely duplicating a disclosed element of the device.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the alternator with two strips interposed opposite surfaces of the magnet, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.

Regarding the U-shaped profile or the V-shaped profile of the groove, the prior art combination does disclose that the claw poles are configured with groove for accommodating the magnet therein in order to retain the magnet in place. Those skilled in the art would understand that configuring a groove with different profiles would be an engineering design choice based upon the size and shape of the magnet that being employed in the alternator.

Thus, it would have been an obvious matter of engineering design choice at the time the invention was made to configure the pole's groove with either an U-shaped profile or the V-shaped profile, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size or shape of a component. A change in size or shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

Art Unit: 2834

6. **Claims 9, 24 and 30** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over XP'444 and Ragaly, as rejected in the rejection against the base claims of claims 9 and 24, and in view of Yamada et al, USP 5734216.

The combination of XP'444 and Ragaly refs discloses the claimed invention, except for the added limitations of a layer of adhesive between the strip and the magnet.

However, Yamada et al disclose a magnet rotor for a dynamoelectric machine comprising a yoke (1) covering one circumferential face of a magnet (2); thus, the yoke is read as a strip covering the magnet's circumferential face that is oriented opposite to a shaft of the rotor; an adhesive layer (3), which is more flexible than the magnet, interposed between the magnet and the strip (1) (figs. 1-2A). Yamada et al teach that by providing an adhesive layer between the magnet and the yoke the magnet can be effectively prevented from being thermally damaged or broken even in used of high temperatures (col 2, lines 1-4).

Thus, it would have been an obvious matter of engineering design choice at the time the invention was made to modify the alternator by providing a layer of adhesive between the strip and the magnet, as taught by Yamada et al, because this would effectively prevent the magnet from being thermally damaged or broken even in used of high temperatures (col 2, lines 1-4).

7. **Claims 10-11 and 25-26** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over XP'444, Ragaly and Yamada, as rejected in the rejection against the base claims, and in view of Mitcham et al, USP 5877578.

Art Unit: 2834

The combination of XP'444 and Ragaly and Yamada refs discloses the claimed invention, except for the added limitations of the magnet including two separate parts bonded together by a layer of the adhesive material.

Mitcham et al, however, disclose a permanent magnet rotor (figs. 2-6) comprising: a plurality of separate magnet parts (20) that are bonded together. Mitcham et al teach that the magnets are subdivided to reduce the generation of eddy current in the magnet (col. 2 lines 29-31, 34-37).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the alternator by configuring the magnet as a plurality of separate magnets bonded together by a layer of adhesive material, as taught by Mitcham et al, because this would provide a composite magnet that would reduce the generation of eddy current in the magnet (col. 2 lines 29-31, 34-37) resulting increasing effective performance of the alternator.

Regarding the adhesive material as the same adhesive material that is used for bonding the strip and the magnet, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select the adhesive material for bonding the magnets together to be the same as adhesive material for bonding the strip and the magnet, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

Art Unit: 2834

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed on 1/24/01 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding rejection under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, the applicant argues that fails to provide sufficient reasoning as to why the claims are unclear when read in light of specification. The applicant states that the Specification *recites* the material of the strip is glass fiber (page 4 lines 28-32). Thus, the specification provide support for the reciting language "the strip being produced from a material which is less hard than the magnet".

In response to this argument, the Examiner concurs with the applicant that the specification discloses the material of the strip is glass fiber. However, the claims recite "the strip being produced from a material which is less hard than the magnet".

Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, *limitations from the specification are not read into the claims*. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Therefore, the glass fiber material (spec, page 4 lines 28-32) is not read into the clause "a material is less hard than the magnet". This clause, in the claims, does not clearly recite any metes and bound for the limitations. With this recitation, one skilled in the art would not ably to figure out or determine whether there is a patentable infringement or not, because it is questionable about what kind of material, i.e., nonmetallic or metallic material, if it is metallic should it be magnetic or nonmagnetic material that has certain characteristics which make the material less hard than the magnet.

Art Unit: 2834

Regarding the rejection under 35 UCS 103, the applicant argues that the combination of XP'444 and Ragaly does not suggest or teach the claimed invention because neither XP'444 or Ragaly discloses or suggest or provide motivation to provide the strip. Thus, according to the applicant, the rejection is a hindsight.

In response to this argument, the applicant's attention is drawn to Ragaly's fig 2b-2c, particularly fig 2c, Ragaly teaches that the edge regions 37 of these arc-shaped segments 35 are adjusted to fit the shape of the groove as seen clearly from the sections A, B of FIG. 2c and must extend at least in the first portion of the first undercut 25 of the groove 21, as seen from section C. This arc-shaped segment 35 extends over the groove opening and contacts with a first edge region (37) of the side walls of the groove 21. These edge regions 37 extend to the undercut until also they are radially fixed. Ragaly's teaches that the mechanical stability and reliability of the PM piece would be further increased by insertion of an arc-shaped segment 35 made from ferromagnetic material. *(Note that Ragaly teaches that the strip is made of ferromagnetic material, which is known to be less hard than the permanent magnet material.)* These arc-shaped segments 35 guarantee thus an additional securing in order to improve the stability of the PM piece at high rotation speed *(translation of Ragaly EP-0-837-538-A1, col 5 lines 20-50).*

Thus, the applicant's allegation, i.e., Ragaly does not suggest or teach the claimed invention because Ragaly does not teach or suggest the motivation to provide the strip, is false. Thus, the rejection, therefore, is **not** a improper hindsight.

Art Unit: 2834

9. *Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection* presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

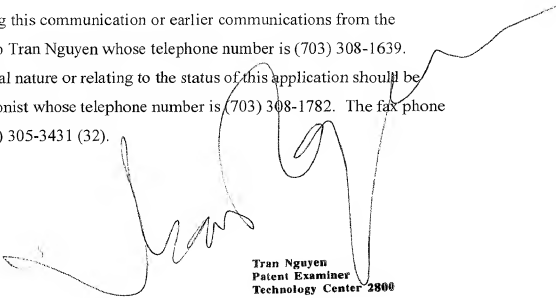
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Communication

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tran Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1639.

11. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3431 (32).

March 1, 2001



Tran Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

Art Unit: 2834

***** NOTICE *****

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Applicant(s) is/are encouraged to respond to this Office action directly to Group 2800 by facsimile transmission at (703) 305-3431 or (703) 305-3432. The facsimile transmission service is provided as part of Tech Center 2800's Quality Service After Final program to improve communication with our customers. If this service is utilized **please use the attached TC 2800 cover sheet**. A confirmation copy **should not be mailed** to the Patent and Trademark Office, see 37 CFR 1.6(d) and 1.8(b).

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